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April



DUCHESNE COUNTY COMMISSION

Ronald Winterton, Chairman; Ken Burdick, Member; Greg Todd, Member

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June 27, 2016

RECEIVED

JUN 28 2016

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Paul B. Baker
Minerals Program Manager
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
PO Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

RE: Directive to Reclaim or Provide an Update Mine Plan (Cedar Buttes Mine, M/047/00028)

Dear Mr. Baker:

Duchesne County is in receipt of your letter dated March 22, 2016 regarding the subject tar sands mine located in the Whiterocks Canyon area, near the boundary between Duchesne and Uintah Counties.

The Duchesne County Commissioners have decided to suspend mining operations at the site and commence reclamation rather than prepare an updated mining plan that would allow for additional mining. The "natural asphalt" material at the site does not meet specifications for today's road work and the deposits are not readily accessible. Thus, the Duchesne County Public Works Department, through Ben Henderson, Director, has commenced reclamation, using county crews and equipment, based on guidance received from Ms. April Abate of your office.

Duchesne County may not be able to complete the reclamation work before the deadline of September 15, 2016. A very wet spring season in the mine area precluded work by heavy equipment and then the county had an equipment breakdown. Now, the construction season has begun and county crews are busy with several road projects.

Mr. Henderson indicates that there is a sheer wall at the mine site that needs to be leveled off, which will require blasting. He has been seeking the services of someone who can conduct this blasting work; but has not had any success to date. If your office knows of contractors licensed to provide blasting services, please provide that information to us.

The County intends to complete as much reclamation work as possible later this summer and fall; as weather permits. However; it is possible that some of the required reclamation work may need to be completed in 2017. Your consideration of a one year extension of time to complete the reclamation work would be appreciated.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Mr. Paul Baker
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
June 27, 2016
Page 2

Sincerely,

DUCHESNE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ronald Whitton
Gregory Todd
Ken W. Brunel

pc: Ben Henderson, Director, Duchesne County Public Works Department

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